

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An electrically drivable light modulator having liquid crystal layers, which are disposed one behind the other and are enclosed between transparent plates having a surface anisotropy that orients the molecules of the liquid crystals and having electrodes for generating an electric field in the liquid crystals, at least two layers of helical, smectic, ferroelectric liquid crystals are situated one behind the other in the path of rays of a light beam to be modulated. The directions of the fast and slow axes of the individual layers are rotated relatively to each other so that the polarization of the light beam is the same upstream and downstream from the modulator. An adaptive, optical device has a field of light modulators configured in a raster-type array, in which the modulators are situated in the path of rays of the device, each individual light modulator being able to be driven to compensate for unsharpness occurring on a point-by-point basis in an image to be processed.

**SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION**